

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed December 12, 2004 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

**Subject Matter Indicated Allowed or Allowable**

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability of Claims 5, 10 and 17, subject to their re-writing in independent form. Claim 5 has been canceled, its subject matter and that of intervening Claim 2 having been incorporated into independent Claim 1. Claim 10 has been canceled, its subject matter having been incorporated into independent Claim 9. Claim 17 has been canceled, its subject matter having been incorporated into independent Claim 13.

**Conclusion**

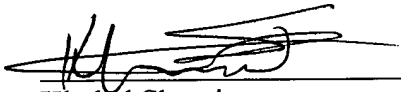
In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST, L.L.P.

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